

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07910 221738Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7910

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

REF: STATE 156614

1. SPEECH DRAFT IS AN EXCELLENT FIRST CUT, WITH THOROUGHLY APPROPRIATE TONE. WE HAVE CIRCULATED IT TO SENIOR EMBASSY STAFF, AND FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE THOSE ON WHICH THERE WAS A FAIRLY STRONG CONSENSUS. THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES OF REACTION BECAUSE NOT EVERYONE AGREED ON WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SPEECH IS OR SHOULD BE. IF IT IS TO BE MOSTLY HEARTS AND FLOWERS, WE CAN GET BY WITH FEWER SPECIFICS. IF IT IS MEANT TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE WAY THE U.S. SEES ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL (AND THIS IS OUR PREFERENCE), WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

A. IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AUDIENCE JUST AFTER THE PLANE PACKAGE DEAL WAS PASSED, HE ADDRESSED WITH ELOQUENCE THE NEED FOR THE U.S. AND ISRAEL TO ACCEPT DIFFERENCES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHOUT CONSTANTLY QUESTIONING BASIC MOTIVES. WE THINK SUCH A SECTION SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SPEECH.

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B. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE BASHFUL IN POINTING OUT TO ISRAELI AUDIENCES THE UNPRECEDENTED MAGNITUDE OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHICH THE U.S. HAS SUPPLIED ISRAEL SINCE THE 1973 WAR. THE NUMBERS ARE IMPRESSIVE AND NOT AS WELL KNOWN HERE AS THEY SHOULD BE.

C. WE AGREE WITH CONGEN JERUSALEM (JERUSALEM 1690) THAT MENTION SHOULD BE MADE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 AND

PALESTINIAN PROBLEM (RATHER THAN PALESTINIAN RIGHTS).

D. WE NOTE THAT IN THE DISCUSSION OF OUR SHARED DEMOCRATIC TRADITION NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FURTHERMORE, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT ALL ISRAELIS ARE JEWS. AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE ABOUT 500,000 ISRAELI ARABS.

2. WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO RUN THROUGH THE SPEECH PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH AND OFFER OUR SUGGESTIONS:

A. PARA TWO, USE "JEWISH NATION" INSTEAD OF "HEBREW NATION."

B. BEN GURION WAS QUOTED SEVERAL TIMES. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU INSERT A QUOTE FROM BEGIN SOMEWHERE IN THE SPEECH.

C. ON THE SUBJECT OF QUOTES, IT WOULD BE SAFER TO STAY AWAY FROM SAUL BELLOW. HE WAS ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE RECENT NEW YORK TIMES AD CRITICIZING THIS GOVERNMENT.

D. PARA TEN, WHICH BEGINS "THESE SHARED EXPERIENCES," MENTIONS "TACTICS" IN TWO PLACES. OUR DISAGREEMENTS ARE SOMETIMES MORE SUBSTANTIVE AND THE WORD "DIFFERENCES" SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR TACTICS.

E. IN PARA TWELVE, WHERE THE PARAGRAPH SAYS "BY OUTSIDE FACTORS," WE SUGGEST THAT IT READ "FROM AFAR."

F. PARA FOURTEEN AS DRAFTED CONCERNING GEOGRAPHY AND SECURITY IS NOT LIKELY TO GO DOWN WELL HERE. ISRAELIS WILL SEE NO PARALLEL BETWEEN OUR SITUATION AND THEIRS. POINT IS VALID, BUT NEEDS TO BE MADE WITH MORE PRECISION.

G. IN PARA SEVENTEEN BEGINNING "TODAY ISRAEL OBVIOUSLY FACES,"
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WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING REVISION. "TODAY, ISRAEL FACES A CRITICAL ISSUE: IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IT IS ASKED TO YIELD TERRITORY IT HAS OCCUPIED SINCE 1967. ON THE ONE HAND, ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE A MISTAKE, FOR ITS MARGIN OF ERROR IS PAPER-THIN; ON THE OTHER HAND, ISRAEL - AND THE WORLD - CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW AT HAND TO ACHIEVE A PEACE WHICH COULD ELIMINATE THE THREAT THAT ISRAEL IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT."

H. PARA TWENTY FOUR SUBPARA TWO, WHICH DEALS WITH OUR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IS A BIT STRAINED. WE SUGGEST IT BE DELETED.

I. THE FIRST SUBPARA OF PARA TWENTY FIVE, WHICH BEGINS "THE U.S.-ISRAEL EDUCATION FUND," SHOULD READ "IS NOW MORE THAN TWO YEARS OLD."

J. PARA TWENTY SIX, WHICH DISCUSSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY FUND, SHOULD INDICATE THAT THE FUND IS TO PROMOTE "THE HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, CREATIVE ARTS AND OTHER FIELDS." THE AMOUNT OF THE FUND, OF COURSE, IS YET TO BE DETERMINED AND WILL HAVE TO BE FILLED IN LATER.

3. OUR COMMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ENHANCE THE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE GRACE AND STYLE OF THE DRAFT AND WE HOPE THEY WILL NOT BE VIEWED AS NIT-PICKS. WE BELIEVE THAT BY ELIMINATING SOME OF THE REPET-

ITIVE PARTS OF THE TEXT THE ADDITIONS WHICH WE HAVE SUGGESTED
CAN BE MADE WHILE ALSO SHORTENING THE OVERALL LENGTH OF THE
ADDRESS. WE SUSPECT IT MAY RUN A BIT LONG AS IT IS.
LEWIS

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